

Some time ago, I assembled together the official soundtrack music for Shadows of the Empire as well as edited pieces of music that fit what was from the N64 video game together as an unofficial "Expanded" soundtrack. As that process evolved, I looked at how the Main Theme for the SOTE video game was an unused piece of music from the Empire Strikes Back that was repurposed for the game. This started to intrigue me as there was quite a large amount of music unused from the movies, as well as 'Alternate' versions of music made for Star Wars.

I started to comb through the soundtracks for Episode V and VI to see what music might fit into the SOTE narrative. Since there was no actual movie or scenes to follow, I led with the same line of thinking as Joel McNeely did in his work. The music is following a point in the story, but not a specific moment in a scene. As such, it opens up to everyone's interpretation what exactly is going on when that music is playing. I looked at what events were happening in SOTE (both the novel & game) and tried to piece together music that might go along with it. Assembling it in a 'soundtrack' fashion as if it were based on an actual movie, I brought together many wonderful pieces of music that quite frankly don't get a lot of play when compared with the official releases of soundtracks. Honestly, hardly anyone ever listens to the 'Alternate' versions of music. I love soundtracks and listen to them all the time, but I basically have in place what was in the movie because listening to it reminds me of the movie. If it wasn't used, it may sound good, but it doesn't quite have the same emotional impact.

In this context, these pieces of music have a distinct advantage when placed in line with the SOTE soundtrack. Much like Joel McNeely's work, these selections have no clear moment that they play to. They are open to interpretation when someone listens to them because they were not used for a specific scene. Sure John Williams when he created them had a purpose, he was thinking of something when they were made, but they got the axe and got shelved essentially.

I've spent countless hours arranging and editing this music over the years and it felt a little hollow that I was the only one getting to enjoy them. I've acquired so much wonderful music from FFS Forums that I never thought I'd ever get to hear, and while I don't quite have the connections that some people do, I do have this collection of great music that I would love to share. Knowing that someone else will get to enjoy it as much as I do will be very gratifying.

I am sure that there will be some when they listen to this music will think that I butchered it with editing in the same manner that John Williams has done with his most recent Star Wars soundtracks. They are certainly entitled to feel that way. I'm not trying to win any editing awards with this release, and if you don't like what I've made, then people can easily delete it.

If you do like it, and would like to let me know, please do. I would very much like to hear what people think of this collection and what the arrangements meant for them when listening to it. There will always be those who wish to listen to music as originally intended. That's fine. At the very least give this SOTE collection a chance and see what you think. There will be a track list accompanying this download as well as brief descriptions for the expanded or additional music.

Thank you and Enjoy!